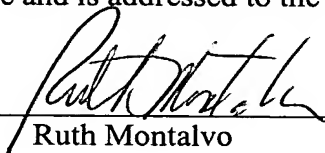


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Ruth Montalvo


Date

Docket No.: GK-OEH-119/500814.20020

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter CZERNEY, Wilhelm FRANK, Frank LEHMANN,
Bernd SCHWEDER and Matthias WENZEL

Serial No.: Unknown (Int'l Appln. PCT/DE01/01946
filed May 22, 2001)

Filed: Simultaneously Herewith

For: STABLE NEAR-INFRARED (NIR) MARKER DYES BASED
ON BENZOPYRILIUM-POLYMETHINES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, filed simultaneously herewith, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Cancel the present specification and substitute therefor the enclosed substitute specification.